United Nations A/C.2/57/L.24

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
31 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Second Committee
Agenda item 89
Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Venezuela:* draft resolution

Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the International Conference on Financing for Development[1] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2]

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling its resolution 56/207 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication",

---

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-20 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[2] See A/CONF.199/20.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

02-67168 (E) 311002

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that, while, the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries are still being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing also that for poverty eradication strategies to be effective it is imperative for developing countries to be integrated into the world economy and equitably share the benefits of globalization,

Reaffirming that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, bearing in mind the relationship between all human rights and development, and an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),[4]

1. *Stresses* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries;

2. *Stresses also* that the deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability;

3. *Stresses further* that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation;

4. *Recognizes* the major role trade can play as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, and in this context stresses the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

[4] A/57/211.

5. *Welcomes* the decision contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration[5] to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Work Programme of the Declaration, including through enhanced market access in products of interest to developing countries;

6. *Recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[3] and in this regard calls up on those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development[1] to make available these commitments as soon as possible;

7. *Expresses* its appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

8. *Stresses* that external debt and debt-servicing have a heavy impact on developing countries, in particular the poorest, most heavily indebted countries, hinder their efforts to eradicate poverty, pre-empt large proportions of Governments' expenditures and reduce scarce resources available for public social services and economic development, hence emphasizes that external debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can then be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development;

9. *Calls* for the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, encourages participation in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of all creditors that have not yet done so and, in this regard, stresses the need for the donor community to provide the additional resources necessary to fulfil the future financial requirements of the Initiative, hence welcomes the agreement that financing for heavily indebted poor countries should be reviewed analytically and separately from International Development Association replenishment requirements but immediately after meetings for the thirty-eighth replenishment of the Association, and calls upon all donors to participate fully in this process;

10. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with the developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

---

[1] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

11. *Recognizes* the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt these best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

12. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural development, productive employment, population, environment, freshwater, food security and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic development, security and stability;

13. *Expresses* its concern that, despite a decrease in the number of undernourished people in some developing countries during the 1990s, nearly two thirds of these countries recorded either no change or an increase in the number of undernourished people, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and that at current rates of progress, the goal to halve the proportion of undernourished people by 2015 is likely to be achieved in some regions but not in others, such as in sub-Saharan Africa;

14. *Emphasizes* the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in this regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

15. *Recognizes* that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, and in this regard expresses its concern at the rapid growth of slum-dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, and stresses that unless drastic measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum-dwellers, who constitute one third of the world's urban population, will continue to increase;

16. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, particularly basic education and training, in particular for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, and in this context reaffirms the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[6] and recognizes the importance of the UNESCO strategy for poverty eradication, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the Dakar goals as well as the Millennium Development goals;

17. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in many countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis, in particular addressing the special needs of developing countries through strengthened

[6] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000*, Paris, 2000).

cooperation and assistance as well as through the implementation of commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001;[7]

18. *Emphasizes* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microfinance institutions and their capacities;

19. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and the international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

20. *Stresses*, as recognized in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, further exacerbating the continent's marginalization;

21. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's development as a programme of the African Union whose primary objective is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development, and urges the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, to assist with the implementation of the New Partnership;

22. *Stresses* that the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015 will not be achieved without serious efforts to address the development needs of the least developed countries and to support their efforts in improving the lives of their people, and in this regard calls upon the national Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration[8] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[9] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

23. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

---

[7] See resolution S-26/2, annex.

[8] A/CONF.191/12.

[9] A/CONF.191/11.